

Department of Commerce Growth Management Services Planner's Update

A monthly newsletter to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State

March 2012 – ISSUE 54

Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from the Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington State.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe.

Please also consider sharing this newsletter with planning commissioners.



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1. CERB Offers Planning Funds for Advanced SEPA Projects

The Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) affirmed the eligibility of environmental review integrated with a subarea plan for CERB planning funding. Applicants may apply for funding of up to \$50,000 toward “advanced” environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for subareas that will include high-priority economic development projects. Advanced environmental review includes any SEPA review for a subarea that is completed during the planning stage, rather than during development review of

a specific project. After completion of “advanced” SEPA review, future development proposals that are consistent with the adopted plan typically do not require additional SEPA review.

Three case study reports completed in the past ten years have found advanced SEPA review streamlines and shortens permitting processes, and provides more certainty to potential developers and citizens by pre-defining required mitigation of potential environmental impacts.

CERB is Washington's strategic economic development resource, focused on creating and retaining jobs in partnership with local government. CERB finances public infrastructure and planning projects to encourage new development and expansion in targeted areas. **Planning projects applying for funding** should target job growth and long-term economic prosperity and can include: subarea or site-specific plans, studies, and analyses that address environmental impacts, capital facilities, land use, permitting, feasibility, marketing, project engineering, design, site planning and project debt and revenue impacts.

For more information, please see CERB's website at:

<http://www.choosewashington.com/business/financing/revitalization/Pages/default.aspx>.

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2. 2012 EPA National Award for Smart Growth Achievement Application Period is Now Open

The EPA is now accepting applications for the 11th annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. **The entry deadline is April 6, 2012.**

This competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially, and economically. Winners will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in December 2012.

There are 3 entry categories: Programs and Policies; Equitable Development; and Main Street or Corridor Revitalization. The EPA will film short video clips of the winning projects which will be shown at the awards ceremony and at the 2013 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference. Public-sector awardees will receive one complementary registration to the 2013 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference!

The official award guidelines and entry form can be found here:

<http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm>

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3. Statute Requires Notice to Military of Energy Proposals

In recognition of military operations across the State, the Legislature and Governor approved [SHB 1570](#) during the 2011 session which establishes a new requirement for the State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) and local governments to provide notice to the military of energy projects pending review. In addition to installations and ranges, the military uses designated Military Training Routes and Military Operating Areas to conduct flight training, including low level operations which can be affected by wind farms and transmission projects. Radar systems necessary for both flight safety and homeland security can be compromised by wind farms and naval fleet operations can be affected by emerging tidal

power technologies. In accordance with the statute, EFSEC posted a [notice](#) establishing a single regional contact and content of required military notices. Local governments can also submit notices electronically and make other inquiries to MilitaryEnergyReg_10@us.af.mil. The Air Force, serving as the Department of Defense (DoD) Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC) for Region 10 will coordinate the review of the project with affected Services, units, and the DoD Energy Clearinghouse, which provides for a headquarters validation of military objections to energy projects. Any military concerns with pending proposals will be expressed within the timeframe specified within the notice. For additional information contact the DoD REC at 866.673.7525 or your local military installation community planner or Community Plans and Liaison Officer (CPLO).

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4. Watershed Planning and Assessment Request for Proposals

The Washington State Conservation Commission is soliciting proposals to identify, at a watershed or sub-basin scale, an approach and structure to develop an assessment and plan of work that will ensure limited financial resources intended to address natural resource concerns are focused in local areas in a manner that considers local priorities, capacity, and citizen willingness, and will lead to on-the-ground actions with measureable natural resource improvements.

Proposals are due to the Commission by March 19, 2012.

Project Period: Proposals will be selected and funding awarded by April 6, 2012. All work must be completed by September 2012.

Eligible Entities: This RFP is open to all conservation districts, watershed groups, salmon recovery lead entities, local units of government, Tribal governments and non-governmental organizations working on issues relating to agriculture, agricultural landowners, and natural resource assessment and response activities.

Estimated Funding: There is a total of \$200,000 for this RFP, and a minimum of 4 proposals will be awarded. There is no limit to the amount per proposal, but applicants are reminded to consider the short timeframe to complete the work.

For more information, please refer to the full Request for Proposals document, which can be found at the Commission's web site at www.scc.wa.gov or contact Ron Shultz at rshultz@scc.wa.gov

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5. EPA Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance

EPA is now accepting letters of interest from communities interested in receiving direct assistance for projects that facilitate the use of green infrastructure to protect water quality. Technical assistance will be provided through EPA contract support, and will be directed to watersheds/sewersheds with significant water quality degradation associated with urban stormwater. The total EPA assistance available is approximately \$950,000, and will be distributed among 10-20 projects. The value of the assistance available to each project will be approximately \$50,000 - \$100,000. **Letters of interest must be received by April 6, 2012.** For more information, see: [EPA Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance](#).

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